

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1- 5 and 7-9 have been amended. Claims 11-18 have been presented herewith.

Applicants respectfully emphasize that the originally filed parent application did not include a claim 6. Accordingly, claim 6 is not included in the listing of claims, and is not currently pending.

Also by this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been revised to identify the parent applications, and an Abstract has been submitted.

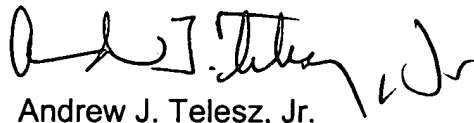
Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCO, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
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